polluted ecosystem. Accordingly, all trekking and mountaineering expeditions into the park have been prohibited.

(c) According to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, normal development activities and ecodevelopment projects are being undertaken outside the Nanda Devi National Park for the social, cultural and economic benefits of the local people.

Building up of a Captive Power Plant by Rayon Company at veraval

759. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rayon Company propose to build up a captive power plant of 25 MW at Veraval in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the environmental clearance is a hindrance for the granting of permission for setting-up this captive power project;

(c) if so, the details thereof and;

(d) the time by which necessary permission is likely to be granted to the Company for setting-up the same within their premises?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The Ministry had received a proposal in October, 1995 for enviornmental clearance for a 16.5 MW Captive Power Plant at Veraval, Gujarat, of M/s Indian Rayon & Industries Ltd. Since the promoters had obtained necessary State clearances prior to 27th January, 1994, the date of issue of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, the Environmental Clearance under the provisions of this Notification was not required for the project and project proponents informed accordingly.

वन-हनन को रोकने के लिए उठाए गए कदम

760. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह:** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान और अन्य राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में अनधिकृत और अंधाधुंध तरीके से बड़े पैमाने पर वन-हनन किया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार इसे रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो० सैफुद्दीन सोज़): (क) से (ग) केन्द्र सरकार को राजस्थान सहित किसी भी राज्य से बड़े पैमाने पर वन-नाशन की कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है। तथापि, वन-नाशन को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा निम्नलिखित कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं:—

वन संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1980 को केन्द्र सरकार के अनुमोदन के बिना गैर-वानिकी उद्देश्यों के लिए वन भूमि को उपयोग में न लाने के लिए अधिनियमित किया गया।

भारतीय वन अधिनियम, 1927 और वन्यजीव सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 1972 को वन और वन्यजीव अपराधों को रोकने के लिए लागू किया गया।

दुर्लभ और खतरे में पड़ी प्रजातियों और जैविक महत्व के प्राकृतिक वासस्थलों के संरक्षण के लिए बाघ परियोजना, हाथी परियोजना सहित विशेष कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वित किये जा रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों, अभ्यारण्यों और बाघ परियोजना रिजर्वों के बफ्फर क्षेत्रों सहित अवकृमित वन के पुनरुद्धा के लिए वनीकरण/पुनः वनीकरण और पारि-विकास कार्यक्रमों को कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है।

लकड़ी के विकल्प, खपत को कम करने और क्षति को रोकने के लिए लकड़ी के विकल्प और ईंधन लकड़ी के बचत के उपायों को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है।

वन और वन्यजीवों के प्राकृतिक वास-स्थलों पर दबाव कम करने के लिए वनेतर क्षेत्रों में वनीकरण और बंजर भूमि विकास कार्यक्रमों को भी कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है।

लाभ बांटने के माध्यम से वनों की सुरक्षा और पुनरुद्धार में ग्राम समुदायों और स्वैच्छिक

एजेंसियों की भागीदारी के लिए संयुक्त वन प्रबंध तकनीकों और संस्थाओं का विकास किया जा रहा है।

"Protection of Forest Property Along Indo-Nepal Border"

761. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the forest property in Uttar Pradesh; especially along the Indo-Nepal border, has been increasingly devastated over the past few years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of forest guards have been killed by mafia in that region and; if so, the total number of such victims during the last five years; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to protect the forest area during the last three years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six forest officials have been killed during last five years.

(c) The Following steps have been taken by the government to protect the forests:—

(i) Fifty four ex-army personnel have been deployed in the sensitive forest ranges of Baharaich district bordering Nepal.

(ii) In the bordering areas, the damaged bridges, check-posts have been repaired and patrolling has been strengthened. To check illegal transport of timber 10.5 Kms long trench has been constructed.

(iii) A consultative meeting on biodiversity conservation has been held with His Majesty's Government of Nepal for promoting bilateral co-operation between India and Nepal on the issue of trans-boundary protected area system and control of illegal trade in timber, wild flora and fauna and their products.

The State Government have reported that aforementioned measures have successful reduced the incidence of illicit felling over last five months.

Discharge of Untreated Effluents by Tamil Nadu Sugar Mills

762. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that several sugar mills in Tamil Nadu are discharging the untreated/half treated effluents into streams and rivers contaminating the water used by the people and cattle for drinking purpose; and

(b) if so, whether Government will direct all such mills not to discharge effluents, treated or untreated?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The sugar mills in Tamil Nadu have provided effluent treatment plants for treating their effluents. Most of the sugar mills are discharging their treated effluents for irriggation on land except one unit which is discharging its treated effluent into a water channel. Show cause notice has been issued to this unit by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. The Board is also closely monitoring the performance of effluent treatment plants provided by the sugar mills in the State.

Coservation of Forests, Wildlife and Environment in Northern States

763. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes taken up by Government for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment in Northern States during the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the amount provided for this purpose during the said period, projectwise; and